

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data output device for transmitting information data including bar-code data, which is read from a bar-code, to an external computer comprising:
 - bar-code reading means for reading the bar-code data;
 - data storing means in which identification data for individually specifying the data output device is stored; and
- 10 control means for transmitting information data which is generated by combining the identification data with the bar-code data read by the bar-code reading means.
2. The data output device according to claim 1, wherein the data output device is connected to a terminal via a communication interface, the terminal being capable of communicating with a communication network.
- 15 3. The data output device according to claim 1, wherein the data output device is incorporated into a terminal that can communicate with a communication network.
- 20 4. A system for gathering information comprising:
 - at least one data output device connected to a terminal that can communicate with a communication network, the data output device comprising bar-code reading means for reading bar-code data from a bar-code, data storing means for storing identification data which individually specifies the data output device, and control means for transmitting information data to the terminal, the information data

being generated by combining the identification data with the bar-code data;

5 a host computer connected to the communication network, the host computer receiving the information data transmitted from the terminal via the communication network; and

10 data accumulation means, provided in the host computer, for receiving the information data transmitted from the terminal and accumulating the information data therein.

5. The system for gathering information according to claim 4 further comprising at least one local terminal connected to the communication network for receiving the 15 information data accumulated in the data accumulation means in the host computer through the communication network.

Claim 4